

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.196(b)(1). In the Decision On Appeal, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences interposed new grounds for rejection of Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12. By the present Amendment, the limitations of dependent claim 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the limitations of dependent claim 11 have been incorporated into independent claim 9. Thus, claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are now canceled.

In its Brief on Appeal, Applicants distinguished claims 1 and 9 from the prior art in stating that neither the Stutz, Jr. '595 patent nor the Fain et al. '026 patent taught or suggested an adapting member formed as an integral part of the main body portion of the lead. The Board agreed with applicants on this point, but indicated that claims 1 and 9 did not include this as a limitation stating that "extending from the lead" is different from "being part of the lead". By the present Amendment, it is now positively recited that the adapting member is formed as a part of the main body portion of the lead and that it extends from the lead.

Based upon this Amendment and the failure of the prior art of record to teach or suggest a lead having an elongated main body portion with an adapting member formed as a part of the main body portion and extending from it, claims 1 and 11 can no longer be found obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on the cited combination of Stutz in view of Fain, which comprises the new ground of rejection stated in the Board's Decision On Appeal.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 along with dependent claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10 and 13-15 are now in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas J. Nikolai".

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